

[11 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

### **Condition of Zoos**

2200. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of zoos in India is in a shocking state and birds and animals are not adequately protected from diseases;

(b) which zoo staff are neither trained, qualified nor experienced to analyse the illness of animals and administer treatment; and

(c) if so, what is the actual position of zoos in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The level of housing and upkeep of animals particularly the aspects of restraining facilities enclosures appropriate disposal of waste material, supply of potable drinking water, hygiene and sanitation etc. are not upto mark in majority of Indian Zoos. Main bottleneck in improvement of the zoos in the country is lack of staff with the required qualifications and expertise. The resource crunch in various States has hampered the process of the recognition of zoos as scientific institution. By and large the responsibility for health care and upkeep of animals is left to the keepers and assistant keepers who are by and large illiterate. Although Central Zoo Authority is carrying out regular programme for the training of keepers, but the scope of improvement is quite limited due to their poor education and qualification.

### **Building ECO Cities**

2201. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up an ambitious plan to convert some major cities in the country into ECO cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such ECO cities would be developed with some foreign collaboration or any stringent steps would be taken to check generation of pollution in such cities; and

(d) if so, the details of schemes formulated by Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):** (a) and (b) The Government have drawn up a conceptual framework for ECO cities. State Government agencies have been asked to draw up environmental management plans for the following cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

(c) and (d) No foreign collaboration has been envisaged as yet for development of such ECO cities. The steps taken by Government to check generation of pollution in the cities include:

- (i) Ambient air and water quality standards have been laid down.
- (ii) A network of ambient air quality and water quality monitoring stations have been established.
- (iii) Green belt for abatement of pollution and environmental improvement has been initiated in five cities/towns and 102 municipalities in Tamil Nadu.
- (iv) Preparation of Zoning Atlas for siting of industries based upon environmental considerations in various districts of the country has been taken up.
- (v) Action Plan for ensuring proper management of municipal solid waste in Delhi has been prepared.
- (vi) Action Plans for control of pollution in Delhi and Mumbai are being implemented.
- (vii) 24 critically polluted areas have been identified. Action plans have been drawn for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.
- (viii) Urban environment management plans for Kanpur and Haldia have been prepared.
- (ix) Emission standards for vehicles are being enforced.



- (x) CNG is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.
- (xi) Public awareness campaign on the effects of pollution has been launched.

**Depletion of Dense Forests in UP**

**2202. SHRI GANDHI AZAD:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent Forest Survey of India report reveals that dense forest cover of UP is being depleted by eight Sq.km. every day and the trend is continuing;

(b) whether it is a fact that forests grow in Uttar Pradesh only on paper, as reported in Times of India dated 11th July, 2000; and

(c) if so, what are the remedial measures adopted?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):** (a) As per State of Forest Report, 1999, dense forest cover has declined from 22,958 Sq. Km. to 22,902 Sq. Km. and forest cover has increased from 33,994 Sq. Km. to 34,016 Sq. Km. in Uttar Pradesh during the period 1995 to 1998.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Encroachment of Forest Land Area**

**†2203. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:  
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:**

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many hectares of the total forest land of the country

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.